

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. An apparatus assembly comprising:
 - (a) a tubular metal pipe or conduit having an upper end and a lower end;
 - (b) an enclosing device removably engaged with said upper end of the tubular pipe or conduit; and,
 - (c) a tapered stopper removably engaged with said lower end of the tubular metal pipe or conduit.

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2. The apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising
 - (d) a means for connecting the tubular metal pipe or conduit to a tree.

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3. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the tubular metal pipe or conduit has a diameter ranging from about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to about 1 inch.

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4. The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the tubular metal pipe or conduit has a diameter of about 0.922 inches.

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5. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the tubular metal pipe or conduit has a length ranging from about 6 to about 15 feet.

6. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the tubular metal pipe or conduit has a gauge ranging from 15-19.

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7. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the tubular metal pipe or conduit has a gauge of 18.

8. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the means for connection is an elastic ribbon.

5 9. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the tubular pipe or conduit has apertures.

10. A process for making the apparatus of claim 1 comprising:

- 10 (j) engaging an enclosing device with an upper end of a tubular metal pipe or conduit;
- (ii) engaging a tapered stopper with a lower end of the tubular metal pipe or conduit; and, optionally
- (iii) providing a means for connecting the tubular metal pipe or conduit to a tree.

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11. An apparatus assembly comprising:

- (a) a tubular metal pipe or conduit having an upper end and a flattened lower end, and
- (b) a cap removably engaged with said upper end of the tubular pipe or conduit.
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12. The apparatus assembly according to claim 11 further comprising

- (c) a means for connecting the tubular metal pipe or conduit to an immature tree.

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13. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the tubular metal pipe or conduit has a diameter ranging from about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to about 1 inch.

30 14. The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the tubular metal pipe or conduit has a diameter of about 0.922 inches.

15. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the tubular metal pipe or conduit has a length ranging from about 6 to about 15 feet.
- 5 16. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the tubular metal pipe or conduit has a gauge ranging from 15-19.
17. The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the tubular metal pipe or conduit has a gauge of 18.
- 10 18. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the tapered stopper is solid.
19. The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the means for connection is an elastic ribbon.
- 15 20. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the tubular pipe or conduit has apertures.